

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

**THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.**  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK during the Administration of Alonzo H. Cornell, Governor; Historical, descriptive and biographical sketches by various authors, interspersed with portraits. In two volumes. The Hon. PAUL A. CHADBOURNE, D. D., LL. D., editor-in-chief. WALTER BURRITT MOORE, A. M., Associate Editor. Volume II, Imperial 4to, pp. 647. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

In noticing the first volume, we commend this sumptuous and unique work as an admirable exposition of the internal economy and condition of the greatest State in the Union. Our sense of its value is increased by an examination of the volume before us. Like its predecessor it is replete with information not easily obtainable elsewhere and in no other publication presented so clearly and accurately of which every intelligent citizen of New-York is presumed to be, perhaps ought to be possessed, but of which the majority, it is safe to conjecture, know very little. Thorough appreciation of the State which we proudly call our own, the ideas which may be said to constitute its corner-stone, its history, its governmental machinery, the typical changes through which it has passed, its organic principles and policies, would seem to be the duty as well as the privilege of every one of her loyal children. For such knowledge nourishes the filial devotion on which the prosperity of a commonwealth so largely depends, a devotion which in peace is called public spirit, and in war patriotism.

The first volume related to the connection of New York with the Federal Government, the educational interests of the State and the Judiciary. The present volume opens with a comprehensive history of the Legislature. This paper is from the pen of Mr. S. C. Hutchins, well known as a close student of the public affairs of the State. Erastus Brooks follows on the Constitutional Commission of 1872-73. This commission made a number of vital changes in the organic law, notably in respect to canals and prisons. Mr. Brooks points out all that it accomplished that either was not or was not ratified by the people and glances at the work of the Constitutional Conventions of 1821 and 1846. The paper is a valuable contribution to the literature of the Constitution. "The Old and New Capitol," is the subject of the next chapter. The author is George C. Hoskins, late Lieutenant-Governor, who furnishes some curious information in relation to the location of the capital under the colonial governments. The City Hall was built in Wall-st. just before 1700 for the purpose of accommodating the colonial and city governments. In 1752, the Legislature met for a time at the house of Jacob Dyckman; in 1753 in Bowery lane; in 1759 at the house of Teunis Sanderdyk, all of which places were in the out-ward of New-York City. The Colonial Legislature met generally in the City Hall until its final adjournment. The strife between New-York and Albany for the permanent location of the seat of government was very earnest. In 1790 the friends of Albany barely controlled the Assembly, in which body the vote stood 53 for and 50 against Albany. The vote in the Senate was a tie—19 for Albany, 19 for New-York—and the President of the Senate, Lieutenant-Governor Stephen Van Rensselaer, gave the casting vote for Albany. It appears that the Old Capitol cost \$110,685.42, of which amount the State paid \$73,485.42, Albany City \$34,200 and Albany County \$3,000. We commend these figures to the legislators—and some such take the floor every session—who propose making an impressive speech concerning the stiff price of the New Capitol. Mr. Hoskins presents the essential facts in regard to both buildings in an attractive form. He is succeeded by Mr. Montgomery Schuyler, who relates the architectural history of the (new) Capitol, explains the effect of the changes that have been made in the original designs and gives a faithful and lucid description of the rooms, halls and staircase of the building.

The next two divisions of the volume treat, respectively, of the Senate and Assembly. Judge William H. Robertson, the present Collector of the Port of New-York, who spent twelve years in the Senate, writes of that body and ex-Speaker Sharpe, of the lower House. These articles do not trench upon the one already referred to on the Legislature, but admirably supplement it, and the three constitute the best account we know of of all the various phases of the Legislative Department of our Government. The topics that follow have been assigned to equally competent hands. Thus James Hall, the State Geologist, writes of the Geological Survey; the State and Adirondack Surveys and the Onondaga Salt Springs are described by their respective superintendents, James T. Gardner, Verplanck Colvin and N. Stanton Goro; the State Fishery Commission, by one of the Commissioners, Robert B. Roosevelt, and the State Board of Health, by a member of the Board, Dr. Eliza Harris. Considerable space is devoted to the doctors. There are contributions from Dr. William H. Bailey on "The State Medical Society"; from Dr. Selden H. Talcott, on "The Homoeopathic Society"; from Dr. Alexander Wilder, on "The Eclectic Society"; and from Dr. W. C. Barrett, on "The Dental Society." The concluding paper is on "The State Agricultural Society," and, very properly, is furnished by Gilbert H. Tucker, the Editor of the *Country Gentleman*. In addition the volume contains biographical sketches with portraits of the men more or less prominent in the various departments of the public service and in the societies above mentioned. A good deal of this biographical and pictorial feature could be dispensed with without serious detriment to the work. Other pictures of more general and abiding interest are the views, exterior and interior, of the old and the new Capitol, and the Adirondack scenes. The publishers state that the concluding volume will be largely dedicated to the history of the State, of the departments of the State Government, of the different State institutions and of the great business interests. The work will thus make by far the most costly and imposing record of any State of the Union, and really one of the most remarkable of modern publishers' ventures.

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